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(17 - 31 March 1953)

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INDUSTRY

Industrial activities are discussed in a number of Home Service transmissions which stress the need for uninterrupted production, lower production costs and higher quality. The old "shturmovshchina" method whereby much of a quota is turned out in a last-minute rush to meet the deadline "has not yet been eliminated" despite the unrelenting propaganda against such practice. Disparaging reference is made also to the over-staffing of industrial enterprises and the failure of certain plants to operate on a self-sustaining basis (rentabelnost). Broadcasts on industrial themes present the recent centralization of authority in the various ministries as an a priori argument that the change is for the good of all concerned, particularly for the Five Year Plan. As PRAVDA points out editorially on 18 March, "the immediate result" (pryamoy rezul'tat) expected from the change is a further improvement of leadership in every sector of the national economy so that "exemplary completion" (obrutzsovoye vypolnenie) of the State plans may be assured. The new administrative set-up, it is intimated, will do the job that the hitherto "unconnected" (razroznennie) agencies have apparently been unable to perform, that is

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... a steady increase of production output in strict conformity to the prescribed range of goods, the improvement of the quality of such products and the reduction of production costs.

Russian text:

... neuklonnoye uvelichenie vypuska produktsii strogo po ustyanovленnoy nomenkature i assortimentu, uluchshenie kachestva otoy produktsii i snizhenie eyo sebestoimosti.

The unified management theme is resumed by PRAVDA on 23 March in the context of machine building which "until recently" (do poslednego vremeni) has admittedly put in a poor performance. Many of that industry's failings are said to be traceable to "lack of cooperation" among its related branches (rodstvennie otrasi), and that will now be remedied by the new "concentration of leadership" (sosredotochenie rukovodstva). The technological level of the machine-building industry is still low, "many of its plants are working jerkily throughout the month" (v techenie mesyatsa mnogie zavody rabotayut tryvkiami); available equipment is not fully exploited and labor efficiency shows no improvement. "The most favorable conditions" (naiboleye blagopriyatnie uslovia) that have now been created for the industry are expected to eliminate a serious deficiency noted at the 19th Party Congress: the production of "incompleted machines which do not meet the requirements" (nedodelannie mashiny, ne sootvetsvuyushchie usloviam ekspluatatsii).

Typical of the regional comment on industrial topics is an anonymous article broadcast from Tambov on 24 March. The "unjustified repose" (neopravdannoye blagodushie) of the management is said to be largely responsible for the sluggish operations of the plants through most of the month. Only toward the end of the month is it realized that production is far behind schedule and all available forces are concentrated on the job to meet the plan at all costs. Citing the Tambov railroad car-repair plant (vagonno-remontniy zavod) as an example of irrational management, the article points out that the production methods still employed there are precisely the ones that make the long-condemned "shturmovshchina" difficult to eliminate. "Broken down into three ten-day periods (dakady), the plant's monthly output of repaired cars is usually expressed in the following figures: 20 percent in the first third of the month, 25 percent in the second and 55 percent in the third." This, however, is not the worst feature of the oblast's industrial enterprises since "unrhythmic" production does not necessarily imply plan failure. Far more threatening to the successful outcome of the plan are the twin evils of idle machinery and the production of substandard goods which are eventually "rejected" (zabratkovany):

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Let us look at the facts. The Tambov basic enterprises alone have recorded over 500,000 machine-hours' stoppage in 1952. At the Tambov railroad car-repair plant such stoppages amounted to over 98,000 machine-hours and at the bearing-repair plant to more than 80,000 hours.

Russian text:

Obraztimsya k faktam. Za 1952 god lish po osnovnym predpriyatiyam Tambova zafiksirovano svysh 500,000 stanko-chasov prostoja oborudovaniya. Na tambovskom vagonno-remontnom zavode prostoji sostavili boleye 98,000 chasov, a v remontno-podshipniki-kovom boleye 80,000 chasov.

The amount of rejected material is said to be "as great as usual," some plants averaging as high as 24 percent of the total output which in the case of the Mishchansk town Lenin plant is estimated at 2,286,000 rubles.

Unprofitable operations and the failure to reduce production costs are, according to KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA of 24 March, still characteristic of a number of Crimean industrial enterprises. In Simferopol alone some of the largest plants "are failing to fulfill their production plans" as well as the plan for reduction of production costs. Similar "abnormal manifestations" (nemormalnie yavlenia) are said to have been noted in the various branches of the consumer industry where, in addition to inadequate services, "cases of squandering and embezzlement are still taking place." A ZVYAZDA editorial broadcast from Minsk on 24 March says that despite the favorable conditions created by the State, a large section of Belorussian industry continue to lag behind. There is no visible improvement in labor efficiency and "the production of numerous enterprises is of low quality." No details are offered as to the names and location of the criticized enterprises.

Science and Industry. Lack of cooperation between scientific-research bodies and industry and the failure of the latter to introduce the achievements of science into production form the subject of frequent discussion by the central press and radio which is echoed by regional comment. On 25 March, ZARYA VOSTOKA declares that "a radical improvement" (rezkoye uluchshenie) of Georgia's scientific-research work is in order. Scientists do not maintain sufficiently close liaison with actual production, and their ties with leading industrialists, innovators and others should be strengthened. Several scientific institutions are in fact "preoccupied with petty and secondary problems" without even bothering to tackle the more important issues of industrial production. Nor are the scientists alone to blame for the failure to contribute to the advancement of industry since, as the paper remarks,

at the same time it is possible to cite examples where the economic organizations themselves slow down the introduction of scientific discoveries into production.

Insufficient collaboration between science and industry is also the case in Odessa, according to a ZNAMYA KOMMUNIZMA editorial of 27 March. Many scientific workers "are not giving attention" to production problems that demand immediate solution, nor do they appear anxious to publicize the achievements in industry made by stakhanovites, innovators and rationalizers. This point is driven home by citing "proof" (dokazatelstvo) of the Odessa scientists' lackadaisical attitude toward their industrial counterparts. The new metal-cutting method developed by stakhanovite Kolesov which "was made known in every part of the country" is also familiar to the industrial leadership of Odessa oblast but is not being popularized as it should be. But the scientists' attitude to what the paper implies is a popular demand for better metal-cutting is said to be entirely negative: they are standing aloof from this important work and are not assisting the enterprises in the introduction of the Kolesov method. The latter, according to previous broadcasts, is based primarily on speedier work of the lathe turner made possible by better labor organization rather than technical perfection of the machine. But there is very little reference to the "scientific value" of this new method of metal-cutting beyond the discussion of the net result which is a greater output per worker. This may account

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in part for the reluctance of the scientists to give it their wholehearted endorsement which the press and the radio so urgently demand. That point is of course not amplified in any discussion of the topic.

The administration of the much publicized Kakhovka Power Project, the largest of its kind in the Ukraine, is in for some sharp criticism by NADDNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA on 25 March. There are too many things wrong with the construction, and the approaching spring floods "must cause alarm about the rate of construction of the channel bar dam." Coordination among the various enterprises engaged in building the dam is poor; concrete laying in the principal construction sites has not been started, and such important problems as the procurement and delivery of parts and the building of auxiliary roads have not yet been solved:

Lack of organization, lack of forethought and sometimes irresponsibility of some leaders of the construction lead to a lag in the work, violation of schedules and increased production costs.

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The Lumber Industry gets practically no attention in the period under review, the only discussion of it appearing in a SOVETSKAYA KUBAN editorial for 31 March. The Kuban lumber industry, it is claimed, is still "heavily indebted to the State" (v bolshom dolgu pered gosudarstvom). The Krasnodar Lumber Combine, the largest in the Krai, "has not been coping with its tasks for a long period of time"; many lumber organizations "are not utilizing their mechanical equipment" and their labor organization is inadequate for efficient production; advanced technology "is not being introduced" on a large scale and socialist competition "is not receiving due attention" from the local party, economic and trade-union organizations.

Coal Mining in Karaganda is discussed in an Inozemtsev article carried by PRAVDA on 19 March and excerpted in a radio broadcast on the same day. The improvidence (nedalnovidnost) and feeling of security manifested by a part of the coal administration, says the author, have combined to produce a number of bottlenecks (uzkie mesta) restricting the utilization of available productive capacity. In the mines of the "Lenin-ugol" and "Stalin-ugol" coal trusts the plans for preliminary drifting operations (gornoprophodcheskie raboty) have already been disrupted, and the success of the entire coal-mining plan has been jeopardized. In other areas of the Karaganda Coal Basin, the lack of drying facilities and other necessary installations is said to hamper mining operations, particularly in winter conditions (osobенно v zimnikh usloviakh). Responsibility for the major shortcomings of industry, however, must be placed on the Ministry of the Coal Industry which, Inozemtsev declares, has been planning the industry's operations without regard to local conditions:

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The Ministry is planning production for the new mines not from the day they are actually commissioned but from the day their construction is expected to be completed. But the time lag between these dates as a rule amounts to several months.

Russian version:

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Ministerstvo dayet proizvodstvennyi plan na novye shakhty ne s momenta sдачи им в эксплуатацию, а со дня предполагаемого окончания строительства. Но эти сроки, как правило, затягиваются на несколько месяцев.

This bureaucratic red tape is said to be responsible for the vicious circle in Karaganda coal mining. Unable to meet production quotas, the management is forced to commission incomplete mines which in turn are incapable of keeping up with the schedules originally drawn up by the Ministry. The growing production backlog is eventually spread among the other mines thereby "seriously interfering with their normal work."

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Discussing the current socialist competition between the Donbas and Kuzbas miners, RADYANSKA UKRAINA (26 March) charges the local press with the failure to popularize the competition "in all its details" and to disseminate the experience of the leading coal miners. Hinting that the competition is designed to eliminate lingering, the paper says that it should not be forgotten that "many of our mines" were off to an inauspicious start in 1953 and are still lagging behind. In Stalino Oblast alone seven large coal trusts failed to complete their schedules for the first half of March, and in Voroshilovgrad Oblast the outlook is not much better. Cyclic operations are said to be violated, coal is mined in "fits and starts" and there is "an insufficient interest" in the utilization of the latest machinery:

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Shocking instances of ignoring the new equipment were exposed in the mines of the Donbas Anthracite Combine, particularly in mine number 14-17 of the Sverdlov Coal Trust. The leaders of this mine went so far as to stop the extraction of coal by combines and threw them out of the mine.

Ukrainian version:

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oburnye fakty ignorovannya novoy tekhniki buly vykryty na shakhtakh kombinatu Donbas Antratsit, zokrema na shakhti nomer 14-17 trestu Sverdlov Vugillya. Kerivmiki tsiey shakhty dishly do togo, shcho sovsim prypynaly vydobutok vugillya kombaynami i vykidal'y ikh z shakht.

The People's Welfare. There has been a noticeable increase in the central and regional radio output on the material well-being of the Soviet people, a theme normally discussed at infrequent intervals. As indicated in the previous CPW report, such discussions still lack specificity and are angled to convey the idea of collective rather than individual welfare, but the subject appears to claim considerably more attention than heretofore. A report from Yerevan, Armenia, (21 March) lists a number of textile and other factories, still under construction, which are expected to improve the lot of the consumer. Additional knitwear, stocking and clothing factories are also said to be planned for the near future, and the workers employed in them will be provided with adequate living quarters. This report was front-paged in PRAVDA two days later next to a similar report from Dnepropetrovsk Oblast saying that more collective farmers can now afford to buy motorcycles, bicycles, sewing machines and radio sets.

In a lengthy talk on the Party's "solicitude" for the people's living standard, broadcast on the Home Service on 26 March, (before the price reduction was announced) economist Konev says that the entire policy of the USSR, both internal and external, "is guided by the single noble aim" of insuring of the well-being of the people. Due to the postwar price reductions and simultaneous wage increases, he says, the average worker is able to buy as much for 50 rubles now as he brought for 100 rubles five years ago. The workers of the Ural Aluminum Plant alone, for example, could afford to make the following purchases in 1952: about 1000 radio sets, 240 phonographs, 1100 bicycles, 80 accordions, 70 sewing machines, 96 motorcycles and 3390 watches. Konev fails to disclose the total number of workers employed in the plant. Although such evasive devices are not unusual in Soviet propaganda treatment of the standard-of-living theme, the listing of specific figures is in itself significant. Still more evasive, incidentally, is the reference to such luxury items as private cars: "A number of workers of this enterprise purchased motor cars." (Workers in the Soviet vernacular--robotniki--may also mean officials or executives.)

More furniture for the population is the title of IZVESTIA's 29 March editorial. Local Soviets must bear in mind that the "wide masses of the population are interested in the speediest commissioning of furniture plants" (v skoreishem puske mebelnykh fabrik zainteresovany shirokie massy naselenia). Such words are seldom heard from any central publication, particularly in regard to the

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"desirability" of more and better furniture. The paper goes on to make disparaging comment on the Gorky Oblast furniture industry with its "primitive technology" and the Belorussian cooperatives which continue to produce sub-standard furniture at a time when the entire industry is about to be switched to the conveyor system of production. Asserting that the untapped reserves at the disposal of the furniture makers are "enormous," the editorial says that the output of furniture in the current Five Year Plan "must be increased at least three times" (dolzhen uvelichitsya ne menye chem v tri raza). The number of conveyor lines to be employed in furniture production will be quadrupled during this year, and the assembly (sborka) of buffets, tables and chairs will for the first time be done under the mass-production system.

Under the title "For the People's Welfare," TRUD publishes reports from various localities (29 March) on the growing production of consumer goods. Following are extracts from some of them:

**Moscow:** By the beginning of the spring-summer season the Soviet people will get tens of millions of pairs of footwear in more than 1,300 new styles;

**Ivanovo:** In the first quarter of this year the Ivanovo Oblast plants produced almost two and a half million meters of high-quality cloth above plan. The assortment of cloths is being expanded. One hundred and fifty new designs (novye risunki) and 600 color patterns will be introduced into production;

**Sverdlovsk:** Ten new kinds of white and dark bread and flour products will soon be available for sale. The number of bread loaves sold at present is 60 times greater than before the war, and the sale of bread made from choice flour is to be increased four times;

**Kiev:** The "Karl Marx" confectionery factory, the largest in the Ukraine, has now almost doubled its 1940 output. The expected output this year is 2,350 tons of chocolate candy, that is, three times as much as in 1951;

**Kishinev:** The Republican canning industry is now producing more than 100 varieties of meat, fruit, vegetable, tomato and other canned goods;

**Tula:** The famous Tula accordion plant is now putting out large and small accordions (bayany i garmonii) on a mass-production basis, and is also accepting orders for individual specifications. A total of 40,000 accordions will be produced this year;

**Kharkov:** The single-model bicycle produced before the war and in the first post-war years will now be replaced by five different models including different attachments. The output is already eight times greater than in 1946. The production of women's bicycles is to start this year.

**The New Round of Price Reductions**, the sixth since the war announced on 31 March, is accorded the usual heavy publicity on the home and foreign services but no central or regional comment on this theme is available at the end of the period under review. The list of consumer goods to be reduced in price contains considerably more items than it did on 1 April, 1952 when only foodstuffs were affected. The reductions this time, as announced range from 50% (on potatoes, vegetables and fruit) to 5% (on furniture and carpets). Although such "luxury" items as refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing machines and wrist and pocket watches are prominent among the consumer goods subject to price reduction, there has been no evidence that such commodities are available to the average consumer.

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The Amnesty proclaimed by the Supreme Soviet Presidium on 27 March gets a moderate amount of publicity which has not as yet been followed up regionally. Judging from the fragmentary comment available at this writing, the large-scale release of prisoners and concentration camp internees and the mitigation of their sentences have been motivated by a conviction of internal strength and unity. Political offenders however, are not affected by this "liberation move" regardless of the duration of their sentence. Of some interest is the incidental revelation that minors under the age of 18 as well as people "suffering from grave incurable illness" (stradayuschi-khlyazhelym neizlechimym nedugom) have normally constituted part of the concentration camp population.

## MISCELLANEOUS

A Home Service item broadcast on 24 March quotes scientist V. A. Shchorin as announcing the development of a new anti-biotic (elmolin?) produced from fish tissues. This remedy is said to prolong the effect of penicillin introduced into the human body and is usually administered in conjunction with it.

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## SECURITY INFORMATION

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## SUMMARY

The Kremlin's awareness that the post-Stalin reorganization of the Party and Government must be "sold" to the people may be inferred from the intensive propaganda follow-up of the changes. The point that rigid centralization of authority is what the country needs is driven home, without any reference to Stalin's death, in the context of every discussion from coal mining to the publishing industry. The official efforts to secure something like a popular acceptance of this fait accompli are understandable in view of the fact that the recent revamping of the State apparatus actually meant a reversal of the trend toward more "delegation of power" initiated some time between the last two Party Congresses and steadily pursued in the postwar period. (It may be recalled here that the membership of the Party's Central Committee had been increased from 71 in 1936 to 125 in 1952 (19th Congress), the 10-man Politburo had grown into a 25-member Presidium while the number of ministries jumped from about 15 to 51 during the same period.)

Discussion of industrial weaknesses follows the familiar propaganda pattern of highlighting such chronic shortcomings as inept utilization of technical facilities, inordinate overhead expenditures, the production of substandard goods, etc. Conspicuously absent from such discussions is any reference to the need for political vigilance in industry against existing and potential, domestic and foreign enemies bent on undermining the country's economic might.

It is not clear whether or not the increased attention to the average consumer followed by the widely disseminated announcement of new price reductions on food-stuffs and other mass-consumption goods has been timed to coincide with the current "liberalization policy." It does appear, however, that this theme is given somewhat more prominence than the professions of "solicitude" for the people's welfare that have appeared at rare intervals in the past.

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